FIAE Chapter 7: The Relative Nature of Grades and Their Definitions

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Abstract/Reflection

Abstract: This chapter is all about grading, different ways of thinking about grading and defining grades. The first part of the chapter has a student essay in which the authors want the reader to read and then give it a grade having no background knowledge of the student. The author makes a lot of points in listing different backgrounds the student could have had. The reason for bringing this up is the author wanted to discuss the positives of adjusting grades according to a students background. It is a way for teachers to show students they are willing to bend a little bit for them so the students are more inclined to work harder. The last part of this chapter is about giving grades a definition. It is important to assign value and meaning to whatever grading system the teacher uses. An interesting note by the authors is that now the “average student” gets a B opposed to previous years when the “average student” got a C.

Reflection: I thought this chapter was very informative. The author brought up many good points regarding grading and how to take into account different student backgrounds. I also want to comment on the last topic of my abstract. I thought it was very interesting that the new “average student” now gets a B opposed to a C. When I was in school I can remember that the average students got C’s. I wonder if students are getting smarter or if teachers are just grading easier. I know that when I was in school teachers could have cared less about what my background was most teachers just wanted their students work done and passed in. With this in mind I think it is important to give grades meaning and definitions otherwise they are pretty meaningless and offer little feedback to the people trying to interpret them.